Default in Payment of PF and Gratuity by Firms in Maharashtra

1819. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the industries and firms based in Maharashtra which have defaulted in the payment of statutory requirements like Provident Fund and Gratuity for more than the last six months,

(b) what action has been taken by Government against the above firms; and

(c) whether an assurance has been given by Government to the affected workers for the recovery of their arrears and future compliance by the firms so as to improve their position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Amendment of Minimum Wages Act

1820. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have decided to amend the Minimum Wages Act to do away with the definition of 'adult' and 'child' labour to ensure equal wages for both;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government considers this step enough to persuade the western countries to lift embargoes on import of Indian produce involving child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such embargo has been imposed by any western country.

Housing Activity by Provident Fund Organisation

1821. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund Organisation is considering to take up housing activities, or trying to invest the unclaimed amounts in the institutions which are involved in housing activities,

(b) if so, what is the amount available with the PFO for this purpose

(c) whether the houses thus constructed will be allotted only to the subscribers or will be sold at market price; and

(d) what is the total amount lying unclaimed as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The CBT, EPF has recently constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the feasibility of setting up a fund for the housing need of the Employees' Provident Fund subscribers. As the proposal is still in the embryonic stage, it is difficult to give the required information.

(d) Rs. 66.43 crores (As on 31-3-1993).

Abolition of Child Labour in the Country

1822. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the south Asian coalition on child Servitude contested Labour Ministry's recent claim that Government would wipe out the system of child labour within three years;

(b) if so, whether the education of child labour is not even on the agenda of Government;

(c) if so, whether the U5 Senate is introducing a Bill seeking ban on products manufactured by child labour;

(d) if so whether this kind of legislation is also being considered in India:

(e) if so, the details thereof; and